Closure of Textile Mills

89. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Textile Mills that have been closed down during the last two months in the country;

(b) what is the number of workers rendered jobless; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reopen these Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) During December 1987 and January 1988, 9 cotton|man-made textile mills with 7454 workers on roll closed down.

(c) Government had designated a Nodal Agency to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages for those sick|closed textile mills which are found by it to be potentially viable. Non-viable mills may have to face permanent closure as laid down in the June, 1985 Textile policy.

Infiltration into Meghalaya from Across the Border

90. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to erect fencing to check infiltration from across the border into Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey work for erection of barbed wire fencing has been taken up alongwith the survey for construction of border road.

Import of Dry Fruits

91. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the existing import policy for issuing import licences of the dry fruit importers on the basis of their past imports almost 80 per cent of dry fruits imports have been monopolised by only 10 importers and the rest 20 per cent of imports are shared by nearly 10,000 importers or dry fruits in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the names of the 10 dry fruits importers monopolising the trade and what percentage of the total value of imports in a year is shared by each of them;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of bringing a change in the existing policy to issue import licences on the basis of export performance to break the monopoly in dry fruits trade which will also bring down the prices in the local market and if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative whether Government would consider the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. As many as 7872, 10584 and 5934 licences for import of dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and dates) were issued during 1985-86 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto September, 1987) respectively.

(c) and (d) The forthcoming Import and Export Policy to be effective from 1st April, 1988 is under formulation and no details can be given at this stage.

Review of Rural Sector Lending by the Nationalised Banks

92. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the work relating to the rural sec-